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FOR AMB MANHARD

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SUBJECT: MICRONESIAN ATTITUDES ON MARINE RESOURCES AND

- POLITICAL STATUS

REF: USUN 3657 (DTG 101524Z SEP 76)

FOLLOWING ATTENDANCE AT MEETING BETWEEN MICRONESIAN AND US
LOS DELS IN NEW YORK SEPT 14 (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY BY
US DEL), DIRECTOR OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
TRENT LUNCHEd WITH MICRO DEL (DOMNICK, MOSES, AMARAICH) AND
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THEIR ATTORNEY WYLE. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AND FRANK.

WITH AMARAICH AS PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN MICRONESIANS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY REGARDED INITIALLING OF DRAFT COMPACT AT ROUND VIII ON SAIPAN LAST JUNE 2 BY SALII'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS) AS SIGNIFYING NO FINAL APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BUT RATHER MERELY INDICATING WORK DONE BY COMMITTEE WHICH PASSED INTO HISTORY SAME DATE, SUCCEEDED BY AMARAICH'S COMMISSION ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TRANSITION (CFPST). LATTER, THEY STRESSED, HELD DIFFERENT MANDATE AND WAS NOT COMMITTED TO SUPPORT WORK OF ITS PREDE-

CESSOR. THEY MAINTAINED THAT JCFS MEMBERS HAD INITIALLED ONLY AFTER ASSURANCE ON THIS POINT BY BOTH SALII AND WARNKE. AMARAICH SAID MICRONESIAN VIEW IS CONTAINED IN LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF JCFS FINAL REPORT TO CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM).

AMARAICH SAID HIS COMMISSION WILL MEET MID-OCTOBER ON SAIPAN TO CONSIDER NEXT STEP. TRENT ASKED DOMNICK IF MARSHALLS PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE. ANSWER: "I REALLY DON'T KNOW". IN CONTEXT OF MARSHALLS PARTICIPATION, AMARAICH NOTED THAT UNDER REVISED LEGISLATION, COM OFFICERS CAN APPOINT MEMBER OF A DISTRICT COM DELEGATION TO CFPST. HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD DO SO, BUT SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBER BY DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WOULD OF COURSE BE DISTRICT MATTER.

ON PROBLEM OF INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN DRAFT COMPACT AND DRAFT CONSTITUTION, AMARAICH VOLUNTEERED COMMENT THAT THE TWO COULD IN FACT COEXIST THROUGH WHAT RESIO MOSES CALLED A "STANDBY PROVISION" BY WHICH THOSE PARTS OF CONSTITUTION INCONSISTENT WITH COMPACT COULD BE FROZEN DURING LIFE OF COMPACT. (THEY WISH TO AVOID TERM "OVERRIDE"). AMARAICH ASSERTED THAT MICRONESIANS HAD BEEN HURT BY WHAT THEY READ AS U.S. DENIGRATION OF CONSTITUTION WHICH THEY PROUDLY REGARDED AS THEIR OWN CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT. (DOMNICK REMAINED SILENT ON THIS POINT.) AMARAICH SAID IT SEEMED TO SOME THAT U.S. WOULD "THROW OUT 95 OF THE CONSTITUTION". HE HIMSELF, HE SAID, RECOGNIZED DIFFERENCES WERE NOT SO GREAT AS THIS AND HE IMPLIED THAT CFPST WOULD BE LOOKING INTO NECESSARY "STANDBY" PROVISIONS.

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ON MARINE RESOURCES, ALL THREE MICRONESIANS PLUS WYLE VIGOROUSLY UPHELD POINTS MADE BY WYLE ON THEIR BEHALF AT EARLIER MEETING. DOMNICK DECLARED THAT "JAPANESE ARE RIGHT NOW TAKING THOUSANDS OF TONS OF FISH FROM OUR WATERS (SIC) AND NOT PAYING US A PENNY". HE RECALLED THAT WITH AUSTRALIAN BLESSING PAPUA-NEW GUINEA HAD ENTERED INTO LUCRATIVE FISHING AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN EVEN WHILE TRUSTEESHIP

STILL IN EFFECT. BOTH HE AND AMARAICH STRESSED MICRONESIAN DESIRE TO CONTROL EXPLOITATION OF THEIR LIVING AND NON-LIVING MARINE RESOURCES. THEY FEAR US CANNOT BE RESPONSIVE TO MICRONESIAN INTERESTS AND THEY SAW US/MICRONESIAN RELATIONS IN THIS REGARD AS THE CASE OF THE ELEPHANT NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE FLEA.

IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH WYLE, TRENT ASKED IF A "BENEFICIAL USES" FORMULA MIGHT BE SATISFACTORY TO THE MICRONESIANS. WYLE RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE, ASSER-

TING THAT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN MICRONESIANS THAT THEY CANNOT RELY ON US TO PROTECT OR ADVANCE THEIR INTERESTS IN THIS RESPECT.

WYLE ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO COUNSEL PATIENCE ON PART OF US AND TO ADVISE STRONGLY AGAINST ANY MOVE TO BYPASS CFPST AND/OR COM. HE ASSERTED THAT SOME "VEILED THREATS" TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE TO DETERMINE ATTITUDE ON STATUS HAD PRODUCED HOSTILE REACTION. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MICRONESIANS DON'T WANT INDEPENDENCE; "THEY DON'T WANT TO BE OUT IN THE COLD". TO QUERY AS TO HOW HE SAW INTERNAL MICRONESIAN FEDERAL RELATIONS SHAPING UP, WYLE SAID HE THOUGHT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF LOS/MARINE RESOURCES ISSUES WOULD GIVE STRENGTH TO MICRONESIAN UNITY. HE SAID MICRONESIAN LEADERS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING ROMAN TMETUHL (PALAU) AND AMATA KABUA (MARSHALLS), RECOGNIZED THAT THESE ISSUES INVOLVED WHOLE OF MICRONESIA. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THEY WERE COMPREHENSIBLE TO EVEN OUTER ISLANDERS WHO HAD INTEREST IN PROTECTING "THEIR" FISH FROM PREDATORS. HE THOUGHT MICRONESIANS WOULD WORK OUT THEIR OWN INTER-DISTRICT RELATIONS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAINTAIN SOME FORM OF UNITY OF MARSHALLS AND CAROLINES.

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COMMENT:

ALTHOUGH MAKING CHARACTERISTIC PITCH FOR U.S. "PATIENCE" WHILE NEW STATUS COMMISSION GEARS UP, MICRONESIANS SEEMED READY TO KEEP ROAD OPEN TO COMPLETION OF DRAFT COMPACT AND TO WORK OUT SOME FORM OF CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN COMPACT AND CONSTITUTION THROUGH "STANDBY" ARRANGEMENT. THEY APPEARED FIRM IN THEIR AIM TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION OF SOME JURISDICTIONAL RIGHTS OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS THEIR MARINE RESOURCES AND THEY SEEMED TO VIEW THIS ISSUE AS REPRESENTING IMPORTANT MUTUAL INTEREST OF MARSHALLS AND CAROLINES. CONTINUING PARTICIPATION OF MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN DOMNICK IN IMPORTANT POST OF CHAIRMAN OF COM LOS COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ASSESSMENT.

DURING ALL TALKS US REPS STRESSED PROPRIETY OF
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AS FORUM FOR DETERMINATION OF MICRO-
NESIAN POLITICAL STATUS. ROBINSON

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